



ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION NEWSLETTER

Rockville Sister City Incorporated is a non-profit corporation founded in 1986 in order to support and promote mutual understanding through personal experience based on Youth, Educational, Cultural and Commercial Exchanges among Sister Cities throughout the World.

<http://rockvillesistersities.org>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

RSCC: An Active, Vibrant Organization

By Brigitta Mullican, President—RSCC

Nine Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC) members will travel to China in September, and their trip will include a visit to Jiaxing, Rockville's Friendship City. We want to show that we are interested in learning more about the Chinese culture and see if a formal sister city relationship is possible.

The annual RSCC membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 24th, in Rockville's Glenview Mansion. At 6:30 PM we will serve light refreshments. The formal meeting will begin at 7:30 PM in the conservatory. Members will vote for four RSCC Directors. Please try to attend.

On a more somber note, it is with great sorrow in my heart that I reflect on the passing of three very dear RSCC friends. Two former Board members, who also served as president, recently passed away. James Patrician died February 2013, and David L'Heureux died June 2013. The latest loss is our dear friend in Pinneberg, Renate Beplat, who passed away in July.

There is, however, also much great news to report. It has been a very busy time for Rockville, hosting the Pinneberg Tanszchule Leseberg dance group in June and July. They performed at the Rockville 4th of July celebration and at the Twinbrook Baptist Church, where the Chinese Dragon Dancers and The Finest! performed a routine together. You may view a video of their performance on the RSCC Facebook page or on line through YouTube at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5vMpACe50c.

Carol Nicholas and I represented the city of Rockville at the 57th Annual Sister Cities International Conference in San Antonio, Texas. We attended workshops to learn more about how to improve our sister city program. The theme this year was "The Power of Exchange: Creating Sustainable Cities and Sustainable Relationships."

An exchange with students from the *Gemeinschaftsschule* in Pinneberg to Wootton High School is planned for September. More information will be forthcoming.

In addition, Rockville will welcome the newly elected (November 2012) Pinneberg *Bürgermeisterin* (Mayor) Urte Steinberg the first week in October when RSCC will be commemorating



Dragon Dancers performing at Twinbrook Baptist Church

German-American Day. Traveling with her will be members of the Pinneberg *Fotokreis* camera club. All visitors will be hosted by RSCC members. *Bürgermeisterin* Steinberg will be officially welcomed by the Rockville Mayor and City Council during one of their meetings, and the city will display Pinneberg *Fotokreis* pictures in the Senior Center. This exhibit will open at the Rockville Senior Center on October 6th at 7:00 PM. The public is invited to attend, but an RSVP to RockvilleSisterCities@gmail.com is requested. The North Bethesda Photography Club is working closely with RSCC on the event.



Representatives of The Finest! welcome the Leseberg dancers at Dulles Airport

While our Pinneberg visitors will be in Rockville, RSCC has planned a dinner at the Golden Bull in Gaithersburg on Saturday, October 5th. Our featured speaker for the dinner will be the principal of the German School, Mr. Waldemar Gries. Information for this event is also available on our web site (<http://RockvilleSisterCities.org>) and in the flyer accompanying this newsletter. Reservations are accepted through September 27th for \$40 per person. (Please note, however, that *there will be no "at the door" purchases permitted.*)

On October 25th we will have our annual fall wine tasting at the Glenview Mansion. German and Chinese beers will be available for tasting along with the wine and light refreshments.

We welcome new members to become involved and bring new suggestions on how to strengthen our

program. We hope to see you at the September 24th annual RSCC membership meeting. I also want to thank all RSCC members for their support with membership dues and donations. Without them, our program could never be a success.

CULTURAL EVENTS

German-American Day Dinner

By Gerrie Checkon

Traditionally the Rockville Sister City Corporation hosts a dinner to commemorate the anniversary of the settling of Germantown, Pennsylvania in 1683. This community was the first German settlement in what would become the United States of America. This year's commemoration will be held on Saturday, October 5th, 2013, at 7:00 PM at the Golden Bull Grand Café. The Golden Bull is located at 7 Dalamar Street in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

This year we will be able to welcome the new mayor of our sister city Pinneberg on her first trip to Rockville. The thirteen-member *Fotokreis* delegation, who will be here to display a selection of their photographs, and students from Pinneberg participating in an exchange with Wootton High School will also attend. For this reason, it was decided to select a restaurant specializing in local fare. The Golden Bull is well known for its good food and friendly atmosphere. The guest speaker will be Mr. Waldemar Gries, Principal of the German School Washington, DC.

There is a choice of three pre-selected entrées for the plated dinner. The complete dinners offered are roast prime rib of beef, Chicken Marsala, and fresh filet of salmon. Only pre-paid reservations will be accepted. Reservations may be made using the enclosed flyer, selecting the entrée desired, submitting a check for \$40 for each dinner made out to RSCC, and mailing the reservation to City Hall, Attn: RSSC, 111 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD

20850. Kindly enclose your name, email, and phone number with the reservation.

It is critical that reservations be received in City Hall *no later than* September 27th to enable us to ensure your choice of entrée and to secure a dining room sized to meet our attendance. Mark October 5th on your calendar and plan to join us for a pleasant evening.

For additional information, contact Gerrie Checkon by phone at 301 279-0708 or by email at gerrie.checkon@longandfoster.com.

Ready! Set! Bratwurst!

By Susanne Rosenbaum

After last year's success, the German School Washington, DC and the German Language School will jointly host their second annual 5K Oktoberfest Run on Saturday, September 28th, 2013 in Potomac, Maryland. The event will start off with a 5K run followed by a 1K fun run and will culminate in a traditional Oktoberfest celebration in an authentic German *Biergarten*. If you are a runner who enjoys beer and bratwurst, do not miss out on this amazing opportunity.

Prizes will be awarded to the top 5K team, the top overall male and female runners, as well as the top male/female of each age group. All fun runners are winners! Wheelchairs are more than welcome on the USATF-certified course. Strollers and dogs are allowed as well.

Everyone is invited to join the traditional Oktoberfest celebration with a performance by the Bairisch and Steierisch Dancers. Wear your traditional German outfits, such as Dirndls and Lederhosen. Guests can also win incredible prizes during the silent auction. The main prize is a night in the presidential suite of the new hotel Capella Georgetown.

More information about the race, festivities, and prizes is available at www.dswashington.org/run.



You are invited to attend the

17th Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Festival

October 26th, 2013 11 AM – 6 PM
Montgomery College, Rockville Campus
Honoring author Robert Olen Butler

- Reading and discussion by R. Clifton Spargo, author of the new novel *Beautiful Fools: The Last Affair of Zelda and Scott Fitzgerald*
- Screening of the 1974 *Great Gatsby*
- Panel discussion "Which is the Greater Gatsby?" 1974 vs 2013
- Literary Workshops led by renowned authors
- Tour of "Fitzgerald's Haunts" in Rockville

<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/EDU/Alt.aspx?id=28543>

Taking Stock

By Jack Rodgers

After summer fun and before winter sets in, it's time to pause and take stock of things. The next Rockville Sister City Corporation (RSCC) wine tasting, which is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Friday, October 25th, at the Glenview Mansion, will be a great chance to meet friends and neighbors, enjoy wine and canapés, and reflect on the past, present, and future. Candidates for Rockville's fall city election are expected, so this event will be an opportunity to wine and whine. For more information, visit www.rockvillesistercities.org.

Delightful and Delicious Dim Sum

By Tim Nixon

By any measure, the recent Rockville Sister City Corporation gathering on Sunday, August 4th, was a great success. Over forty participants attended a dim sum luncheon sponsored by RSCC and held at the Far East restaurant in Rockville. Not only was Rockville's mayor, the honorable Phyllis Marcuccio, in attendance, but Mr. Xiaosheng Bi (owner of Nexus Holidays DC, Inc., an RSCC corporate sponsor) was accompanied by family from Xian, China. Everyone agreed that the food was delicious and plentiful.



Mayor Marcuccio joins RSCC Board members in welcoming Xiaosheng Bi and his family from China at the dim sum luncheon

COMMUNICATIONS

Message from Dear RSCC Friends

By Rotraut Bockstahler

Sarasota, August 6th, 2013

Dear Friends,

The luncheon at O'Donnell's Restaurant on May 19th, 2013 was very special. That so many of you came to say goodbye and show your love and appreciation truly made us feel that our long association and work together did build a foundation that only exists among friends. We

thank you for your closeness, for your support and trust, for all the German-American times we shared together, and for all the best wishes that came our way.

Moving away from Rockville in such a short time was in many ways challenging. The almost 44 years we spent in Rockville are a major part of our lives. The activities with RSCC and DAGRP, the Rockville Chorus, The Finest!, and all the exchanges with Wootton High School and other youth and bicycle groups, the reaching out to China have enriched us and truly opened a field of learning and seeing the world anew. We wish the RSCC leadership continued support by wonderful people like you and the never-ending energy and openness to find inspiration for something new and interesting. The year 2013 was and will be a great success. We wish RSCC all the best for the upcoming 60th anniversary and beyond.

It is nice to look at your gifts, and the lovely pictures keep the memories alive. We have made the transition to Sarasota, and we are happy to be close to our family. But there are also still a number of boxes waiting to be unpacked. That means that there will be moments of nostalgia.

With gratitude,

Rotraut and Larry (Bockstahler)

Pinneberg after World War II (Cont'd.)

By Denny Freezer

My article in the March 2013 issue led to fascinating feedback, particularly from Bernd Hinrichs of the DAGRP and our own George Albrecht. I had said that my readings about the war in Europe left me with many questions about what it must have been like in Pinneberg as the war ended, with so many displaced persons (DPs) adding to the post-war problems and shortages. In particular, Bernd was tremendously helpful in contacting his friend Johannes Seifert of the *Geschichtswerkstatt*, or History Workshop, who forwarded to me a

lengthy article he wrote as well as a war diary and other information from the British military occupation of Pinneberg. Bernd also mailed me a book, *Pinneberg 1945*, and George Albrecht lent me his copy of *Pinneberg—historische Streiflichter (Pinneberg—Historical Highlights)*, both of which were published by the *Geschichtswerkstatt*.

The firebombing and near total destruction of Hamburg by British and American bombers in July and August of 1943 caused only peripheral damage to Pinneberg but resulted in a huge influx of homeless refugees from Hamburg. As the war ended, many more DPs added to the problems. The articles and books go deeply into the postwar British military government's objectives and the often losing battles it fought concerning preparations for municipal elections amid all the shortages. Seemingly insurmountable problems resulted from coping with critical lack of solid fuels, gasoline, power, water, and food, as well as the very poor nutrition and hygiene and the tremendous housing shortages. In spite of all this, there was a slow return to cultural life with concerts and theatrical performances.

Everyone suffered, from the Pinneberg residents to prisoners of war and foreign workers. Looting was rampant. In May 1945, according to "*Die britische Militärregierung in Pinneberg 1945 – 1951*," or "The British Military Government in Pinneberg 1945 – 1951" by Johannes Seifert, there were "problems getting enough food and gas for the new residents of Pinneberg. Refugees lacked shelter, blankets, beds, heating, ovens and stoves, cooking pots, plates and cups."

Pinneberg and Elmshorn became sanctuaries as conflicts grew between permanent residents and refugees. Good translators were in short supply, especially when the DPs did not speak German. Large barracks were built in Pinneberg to

accommodate troops and refugees from the east. There was a large increase in venereal disease as the ban on fraternization between occupation troops and the German population ended. By August 1945, with the influx of German refugees and forced deportees from other locations, Pinneberg's population had more than doubled. In 1946 British military authorities requisitioned Pinneberger flats and houses to meet the needs of their troops; we can only imagine how this aggravated the hardships everyone was enduring.



The Cap Polonio became a focal point for assigning quarters and food collection. In early 1947 the "Baltic University" was moved from Hamburg to Pinneberg; it had been set up to educate Baltic refugees and emigrants. It closed in September 1949, and when resettlement schemes were introduced, many of the "Balts" wanted to stay, causing additional problems. There was a great deal of friction between the Baltic University and the DPs in the Eggerstedt Barracks. Through it all, however, some cultural life endured in the barracks. In one

instance, a group of Latvian opera singers gave a concert. By 1950 many DPs had been sheltered for over five years, and by 1957 at least some DPs from nearly ten countries still remained.

Near the end of George's book, a chapter titled "*Freundschaft über den Atlantik*," or "Friendship over the Atlantic," goes into the establishment in 1957 of the Sister City relationship between Pinneberg and Rockville. There is even a ceremonial picture of Rockville Mayor John Freeland during a 1982 visit to Pinneberg. Now these old memories of the wartime years and their aftermath are part of history, but we have much better shared memories made with our wonderful friends from Pinneberg.

Former RSCC Member Visits Rockville

By George Albrecht

Myrtle Sachs, onetime active RSCC member, stopped in Rockville in early August on her return to Florida from a vacation in Canada and New England with her twin sister, Myrna. Myrtle stayed with RSCC President Brigitta Mullican as a houseguest and took part in our dim sum luncheon at the Far East Restaurant on August 4th, where she renewed many old acquaintances.



*Friend of RSCC, Myrtle Sachs,
with Brigitta Mullican*

During her visit, Myrtle, Brigitta, and RSCC Directors Liz Von Kaenel, Marika Brown, and George Albrecht, as well as former RSCC Treasurer Steve Fisher, paid a visit to former RSCC Director Bob Nelson at his residence on Veirs Drive in The Village at Rockville. They all helped Bob celebrate his 89th birthday!



*RSCC friends celebrating the birthday of Bob Nelson
(seated, center)*

After a refreshing stop in her old hometown, Myrtle took the Amtrak Car-Train back to Clearwater, Florida, where she is now active with the Clearwater Sister City program. Clearwater has city partnerships with Nagano, Japan; Kalamaria, Greece; and Wyong, New South Wales, Australia.

MEMBERSHIP

Become a Member

We invite anyone who is interested in joining the Rockville Sister City Corporation to fill out the membership application in this newsletter. The only requirements for membership are completing the application and paying annual dues. Current members, please don't forget to renew your membership.

RSCC Membership Report

By Nancee Simonson

Rockville Sister Cities Corporation thanks all its members for their continuing support. Following are the members who have joined or renewed since the publication of the June newsletter. There is still time to send in your membership for 2013. Annual membership is for the calendar year from January through December 2013. We appreciate all membership support since it is one of our main sources of funding for our programs.

Family Members

Beryl and Edward Feinberg (NEW)
John and Jane Beaver Freeland
Elizabeth and Lorne Garrettson
Siegfried and Christa Krause
Betsy and Paul Robbins

Individual Members

Toby Altman
Bob Dorsey (NEW)

Phyllis Marcuccio
William Vogel

Corporate Sponsors—Calendar Year 2013

The Rockville Sister City Corporation gratefully acknowledges the following corporate sponsors and encourages all members to patronize these businesses.



Nexus Holidays DC, Inc.

Xiaosheng Bi, Owner
932 Hungerford Drive #7A
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: (301) 917-2222
Fax: (301) 917-2240
www.nexusholidays.com
www.nexusholidays.net



ALLIED TECHNOLOGY
GROUP INCORPORATED

Allied Technology Group, Inc.

Dr. Matthew D. Lee, Founder and Chairman Emeritus
1803 Research Blvd., Suite 601
Rockville, MD 20850
Phone: (301) 309-1234
<http://www.alliedtech.com/>



City of Rockville

111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
<http://www.rockvillemd.gov/>



Westat, Inc.

Bruce Romer, Contact
1600 Research Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20851-3129
Phone: (301) 294-3830
bruceromer@westat.com
www.westat.com



O'Donnell's "Tang o' the Sea" Restaurant

William (Billy) Edelblut, Contact
311 Kentlands Blvd.
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
Phone: (301) 519-1650
<http://odonnellsrestaurants.com>



THE JBG COMPANIES

The JBG Companies

Fishers Place and Twinbrook Metro
5635 Fishers Lane, Suite 0200
Rockville, MD 20852
Phone: (301) 468-0200
www.JBG.com

ROCKVILLE SISTER CITY CORPORATION (RSCC)
Membership Application/Renewal Form

I would like to (check one) ___renew, or ___apply for membership. Enclosed is my tax deductible payment (check one):
_____ \$20 Individual, _____ \$30 Family, or _____ \$100 Corporate Membership, for the Calendar Year _____.
Additional tax deductible contribution of \$_____, **Total enclosed \$_____**. RSCC is a Tax Exempt, Not-For-Profit Corporation.

Please print below.

Please, Please provide your email address. Otherwise we have no way of keeping you informed of our activities and events.

Name: _____ Spouse Name: _____ Email Address: _____

For internal use only. We do not release to other organizations.

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____, Work Phone: _____, Cell Phone: _____

Make checks payable to: RSCC Send to: Rockville Sister City Corporation, c/o Rockville City Hall,
111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850-2364

AREAS OF INTEREST: (TO ALL MEMBERS, NEW & RENEWAL, PLEASE, PLEASE CHECK AT LEAST ONE.)

I would be interested in: ___Hosting visitors from Pinneberg; ___Hosting exchange students (high school); ___Fundraising;
___Helping with membership drive; ___Helping w/ Wine Tasting Events; ___Helping w/ Memorial Day Parade; ___Organizing
Cultural or Sport Exchanges; ___Bicycle Tours; ___Developing or Helping with Other Events; ___Serving on Board of Directors;
___Just participating; ___Other (specify below) (These are not commitments, but do help us understand our members' interests.)

Other Comments, suggestions, etc. _____

Memberships are for the calendar year. There is no prorating of memberships. Members who join on or after September 1st will be credited with membership through the remainder of that current calendar year AND the full following calendar year.

Application/Renewal Form Ver.10-5(Revised 8/18/09)

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Rockville Sister City Corporation
c/o Rockville City Hall
111 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850-2364